

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 091345Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2860

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0087

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS COMMENTS ON "KILL MAKARIOS"

REF: 75 STATE 303105

1. DIRGEN FONMIN PELAGHIAS CALLED IN DCM JANUARY 8 TO PRESENT GOC'S REPLY TO COMMENTS MADE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN DECEMBER 24 ON SUBJECT OF THE FILM "KILL MAKARIOS" (REFTEL).

2. PELAGHIAS SAID THAT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS HAD BEEN INFORMED BY AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU OF HARTMAN'S REMARKS. MAKARIOS WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE FILM "KILL MAKARIOS" CARRIED NEITHER HIS PRIOR SANCTION NOR IS APPROVAL AS A WORK OF ART. HIS PERSONAL EVALUATION UPON SEEING IT WAS THAT IT WAS "TASTELESS" AND "BADLY DONE". DCM NOTED THAT MAKARIOS HAD ATTENDED THE OPENING OF THE FILM IN NICOSIA, AN EVENT WIDELY ADVERTISED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. PELAGHIAS REPEATED THAT MAKARIOS HAD "NO PRECISE IDEA" OF THE ACTUAL CONTENT IN ADVANCE AND THAT, ON VIEWING IT, HE WAS "DISGUSTED".

3. DCM ASKED IF MAKARIOS' APPEARANCES IN THE FILM WERE
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PHOTOGRAPHED AS PART OF THE SCRIPT. PELAGHIAS REPLIED THAT

ONLY THE READING OF THE ARCHBISHOP'S PAPHOS SPEECH ("I AM NOT DEAD, I SHALL RETURN, WE SHALL FIGHT ON") WAS FILMED EXPRESSLY FOR "KILL MAKARIOS". THE SHOTS OF MAKARIOS ENTERING AND LEAVING HIS OFFICIAL VEHICLE WERE TAKEN FROM NEWS SEQUENCES AND NOT STAGED.

4. IN CLOSING, PELAGHIAS ASSERTED THAT ANY WISH TO GIVE OFFENSE TO THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH APPEARANCE AT THE PREMIERE OR BY PERMITTING THE FILMING OF THE PAPHOS SPEECH, WAS "THE FARTHEREST THING FROM HIS BEATITUDE'S MIND". THE USG WOULD UNDERSTAND, PELAGHIAS SAID, THAT THERE WAS NO WAY HIS BEITITUDE COULD STOP SUCH A FILM--ARTLESS AND OFFENSIVE AS IT MIGHT BE--FROM BEING MADE.
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